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**ENVELOPE**

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**HEADER**

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SECTION 1 OF 5  
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**BODY**

SUBJ: DIA COMMONWEALTH INTSUM 40-00/29 FEB 00

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(U) THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED

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(U) BURUNDI: STATUS OF PEACE TALKS

AS OF 2200Z 28 FEB 00

1. ~~(S)~~ PEACE TALK FACILITATOR NELSON MANDELA'S COMMENTS HAVE INCREASED TENSION AMONG BURUNDI'S RADICAL TUTSI ELITES.
2. ~~(S)~~ TO PROTEST MANDELA'S PUBLIC CRITICISMS OF TUTSI MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL DOMINATION, RADICAL TUTSI CONDUCTED AN ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION ON 26 FEBRUARY IN BUJUMBURA, WHICH RIOT POLICE BROKE UP. THE GOVERNMENT DENIED ORGANIZERS A DEMONSTRATION PERMIT TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF TENSION AMONG URBAN TUTSI.
3. ~~(S)~~ THE PROTEST WAS IN PART A RESPONSE TO MANDELA'S 21 FEBRUARY PROPOSAL AT THE ARUSHA PEACE TALKS TO INSTITUTE A 50-50 HUTU-TUTSI SPLIT IN A POST-ARUSHA-TALKS ARMY. MANDELA PREVIOUSLY HELD PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION LEADERS REGARDING THE 50-50 FORMULA. HOWEVER, HIS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PRECEDED ADEQUATE REFORM-MINDED GROUNDWORK IN THE TUTSI-DOMINATED ARMY.
4. ~~(S)~~ DURING A 7 FEBRUARY MEETING WITH BURUNDI PRESIDENT BUYOYA AND IN LATER DISCUSSIONS WITH REGIONAL DIPLOMATS, MANDELA SUGGESTED THAT BUYOYA STEP DOWN TO EASE THE PEACE PROCESS. MANDELA REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT BUYOYA, AS A SYMBOL OF CURRENT TUTSI HEGEMONY, COULD BE A HINDRANCE TO PEACE TALKS. BUYOYA REPORTEDLY IS PREPARED TO STEP DOWN, OR CONVERSELY TO LEAD A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT, DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PEACE PROCESS.
5. ~~(S)~~ TUTSI EXTREMISTS WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE RAPID AND EQUAL INTEGRATION OF REBELS INTO THE ARMY. ALTHOUGH MANDELA'S INTERVENTION REVIVED MORIBUND PEACE TALKS, HIS CRITICISMS OF THE TUTSI

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LEADERSHIP,  
ARMY REFORM PROPOSAL, AND SUGGESTION THAT BUYOYA STEP DOWN COULD  
CAUSE TUTSI MODERATES AND EXTREMISTS TO QUESTION HIS IMPARTIALITY.  
(DERIVED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES; DECLASSIFY ON ~~REF~~)  
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